

BALLARAT ICON IN MINI-GOLF



THEBIG

Eureka theme in bold new look for eastern entrance

By **Andrew Jefferson**

A 54-HOLE mini-golf course is planned for Ballarat featuring a big miner icon carrying the Eureka flag.

Queensland-based company WMJ Attractions wants to build an indoor/outdoor mini-golf course on a 5000 square metre site off the Western Fwy.

The 18-hole outdoor course would be called Gold Rush Mini Golf while the two 18-hole indoor

courses would take on other Australian themes.

But the centrepiece would be the 12-metre high concrete miner which would propel Ballarat into the big icon league.

WMJ Attractions already runs a successful 54-hole mini-golf course at Surfers Paradise called King Tutt's Putt Putt, which attracts 80,000 customers a year.

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Bold plan for city's entrance

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Managing director Wayne Johnston hopes to submit a permit for the project later this month with its opening, barring objections, planned to coincide with the Eureka 150 celebrations in December.

The \$1.5 million investment will create 15 new jobs and is designed to complement Ballarat's existing tourism attractions.

Mr Johnston said the company had looked at Coffs Harbour and Singapore before deciding on Ballarat as the ideal location for its latest

"I've been right around Australia, up and down the coast, but this is the best site I've seen," Mr Johnston said.

"I'm originally from Melbourne and remember coming to Sovereign Hill as a child and this will fit in perfectly with the city's goldrush

"Although mini golf has been around for many years, some of the courses have become fairly boring.

'This course will certainly have that wow factor and will give customers an experience that they will go away and tell their friends about."

Mayor David Vendy said the council was supportive of the scheme in principal, but expected the big miner icon to create a "spirited debate".

"Our research tells us that we have 2.2 million visitors coming to Ballarat from that direction and this will fill that gap in the market for a theme park to complement Sovereign Hill," Cr Vendy said.



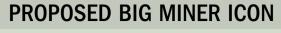
I'm originally from Melbourne and remember coming to Sovereign Hill as a child and this will fit in perfectly with the city's gold rush theme

"The big icon will help to spell out Ballarat's history, which was built on gold, and will also help to develop that eastern approach.

Mr Johnston plans to install two 10,000 gallon water tanks and access bore water on site to service the new attraction.

However, the complex will be entirely self-sufficient as all water used on the course will be recycled.

Councillors are believed to have discussed the concept at Wednesday's forum meeting, when they gave their in-principal approval to the





Big Apple - Stanthorpe QLD Big Apple - Donnybrook WA Big Avocado - Tweed Heads NSW Big Banana - Coffs Harbour NSW Big Barramundi - Daintree QLD Big Blue Heeler - Muswellbrook NSW Big Bull - Wauchope NSW Big Bull - Wauchope NSW
Big Boomerang - Eumundi QLD
Big Bundy Ginger Beer Bottle - Tewantin QLD
Big Captain Cook - Cairns QLD
Big Cassowary - Mission Beach QLD
Big Chicken - Moonbi NSW
Big Cow - Nambour QLD
Big Cow - Rrusswick Junction WA Big Cow - Brunswick Junction WA Big Eight Ball - Port Macquarie NSW Big Fish - Caboulture QLD Big Galah - Kimba SA Big Gold Panner - Bathurst NSW Big Guitar - Tamworth NSW Big Kangaroo - Border Village SA Big Koala - Dadswell Bridge VIC Big Little Uluru - Princes Hwy NSW Big Lobston Kingston Sambour OUT Big Macadamia Nut - Nambour QLD Big Marlin - Cairns QLD Big Merino - Goulburn NSW Big Miner - Ballarat VIC? Big Murray Cod - Swan Hill VIC Big Mushroom - Belconnen ACT Big Ned Kelly - Glenrowan VIC Big Orange - Berri NSW
Big Orange - Harvey WA
Big Oyster - Taree NSW Big Pavlova - Marulen NSW Big Peanut - Atherton Tablelands QLD Big Potato - Robertson NSW Big Pumpkin - Beaudesert QLD Big Pumpkin - Goomeri QLD Big Pineapple - Gympie QLD Big Pineapple - Nambour QLD Big Prawn - Ballina NSW Big Ram - Wagin WA
Big Sundial - Singleton NSW Big Shell - Tewantin QLD Big Sticks - Eumundi QLD Big Sundial - Singleton NSW Big Tinnie - Cobar NSW Big Triceratops - Ballendean NSW Big Trout - Adaminaby NSW Big Termites Nest - NT Big Tree - Buladelah NSW Big Waterfalls - Eland NSW

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT PLANS FOR A BIG MINER?



Zelie Dalgliesh, Ballarat "I think it's a bit over the top?



Damien Chapman, Daylesford "It's a great idea, especially if it's a Neighbourhood Cable



Caitlin Overington, **Ballarat** "I think the money would be better spent fixing up roads."



Big Whale - Nullarbor Roadhouse SA

Big Windmill - Coffs Harbour NSW

Big Winch - Coober Pedy SA

Big Woolbales - Hamilton VIC Big Worm - Bass VIC

Bruce Dalgliesh, Mt **Egerton** "It would be a traffic hazard. Somebody might crash into something."



Tammy Griffith, Ballarat "I think it's a good idea, definitely not too tacky."

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